

Action Item

Governmental Relations Committee

Approval of the Minutes of the December 11, 2000, Meeting

MINUTES

Governmental Relations Committee

Meeting of December 11, 2000

Committee members present Lance Izumi, *Vice Chair*
Carol Chandler
Evonne Seron Schulze
Kyhl Smeby
Howard Welinsky
Guillermo Rodriguez, Jr., *ex officio*
Alan S. Arkatov, *ex officio*

Other Commissioners present
Phillip J. Forhan
Robert A. Hanff
Kyo "Paul" Jhin
Velma Montoya
Ralph Pesqueira

Committee members absent Monica Lozano
Melinda G. Wilson

Call to order Committee Vice Chair Izumi called the meeting of the December 11, 2000 meeting of the California Postsecondary Education Commission Governmental Relations Committee to order at 9:20 a.m. in the P.G. and E. Building, Conference Room A, West Lobby, 245 Market Street, San Francisco, California.

Approval of the minutes Vice Chair Izumi asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the committee meeting on October 16, 2000. A motion was so made and the committee voted without dissent to approve the minutes as submitted.

A *Blueprint for Progress: 2001-02* Legislative and Budget Priorities for the Commission Vice Chair Izumi called upon staff member Marge Chisholm to present the Commission's Legislative and Budget Priorities Report.

Ms. Chisholm said the *Blueprint for Progress* report presents the 2001-02 legislative and budget priorities for the Commission. She said it would guide the staff in responding to legislative proposals throughout the year. She said staff had recently met with various budget and policy personnel and that it was very important for staff to continue to work closely with legislative members, particularly those who are new to the Capitol.

Ms. Chisholm said staff believes access, affordability, and accountability continue to be the primary principles that should guide higher education policy in California. She said the State would need to be more innovative in helping to ensure that all qualified students are able to enroll in quality college and university programs. To do so requires better academic preparation for an expanding number of students, better use of existing

higher education facilities, and improved community college transfer efforts. She said the State should adopt policies that smooth out the “roller-coaster” effect of economic cycles on student fees, which tend to go up in bad economic years and down in good.

There was a general discussion about ways in which the Commission can continue to be effective – including use of fact sheets and other materials to convey Commission findings and recommendations — in providing information about higher education to the so-called “freshmen class” in the Legislature. Commissioner Schulze encouraged the active participation of Commission members in the process of communicating with the Legislature.

Commission member Montoya cited the “Legislative Day” held at the Capitol by the University and similar days held by the other segments. Vice Chair Arkatov directed staff to explore the Commission holding its own “Legislative Day” in Sacramento in conjunction with the regular April meeting. Ms. Chisholm said staff was hosting an informal briefing for Legislative staff at the Commission offices later in the month.

**Federal update,
December 2000**

Commission staff member Karl Engelbach said Congress is still debating an appropriations bill for education. He said new members will take office in January 2001 and it is unknown whether the current body will pass an appropriation bill before then.

Mr. Engelbach responded to a number of questions from the commissioners. He said that there are issues associated with the Federal Education Right to Privacy Act that may impact the ability of colleges to directly communicate with some K-12 students; and that students at California Community Colleges may be adversely affected due to the income-sensitivity features of the federal Pell Grant program. He said Commission staff is working with the community colleges and others to rectify the Pell Grant situation.

Vice Chair Arkatov recommended sending a letter from the Commission to Congressional representatives on the Pell Grant income-sensitivity issue. He suggested the Commission follow the lead of the community colleges. He also suggested having a Commission action item on resolution on this issue. Director Fox said staff would prepare such an item for the next meeting.

There was a discussion about the resources available to the Commission staff to report on federal legislation. Vice Chair Arkatov said the Governmental Relations Committee should discuss this matter with the Executive Director as to what is sought and what resources are available presently. In addition, he said available resources that provide information about federal issues – such as communications from the College Board on federal bills – should be utilized fully.

Christopher Cabaldon extended the use of the resources of the California Community Colleges’ Washington office to assist the Commission. He said the community college strategy was two-fold: first, to have Congress modify the Higher Education Act when it comes up for reauthorization in three years; and secondly to deal with the income-sensitivity issue in the appropriations act to raise the threshold.

Vice Chair Arkatov asked the community colleges to advise how best the Commission can assist on the Pell Grant income-sensitivity issue. He said the other segments also

have Washington resources and those should be utilized fully as well.

Mr. Engelbach said staff utilizes many of those resources in preparing the federal update material presented to the Commission.

Adjournment Having no further business, Vice Chair Izumi adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.
